



# Montgomery County Council

***From the Office of Councilmembers Howard Denis,  
Nancy Floreen & Michael Knapp***

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**For Immediate Release**

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## ***In wake of Clarksburg Violations...***

### **COUNCILMEMBERS INTRODUCE MEASURES TO TRANSFER ALL ENFORCEMENT OF SITE PLANS TO DEPT. OF PERMITTING SERVICES**

Councilmembers Howard Denis, Nancy Floreen and Michael Knapp will introduce legislation tomorrow – along with accompanying zoning amendments-- that would transfer enforcement to the County's Department of Permitting Services of all requirements of site plans adopted or amended by the Planning Board.

"I have lost faith in Park and Planning to conduct site plan enforcement," said Councilmember Denis. "First, there was Clarksburg. Now there's news of yet another development out of compliance with an approved site plan – this time in Bethesda. This is very disappointing."

"I believe transferring site plan enforcement to Permitting Services will give the Council more direct oversight over this important function. This legislation will also require the personal signature of the Chairman of Park and Planning on site plan documents. This will place personal responsibility on the accuracy of those documents with the holder of that position."

(more...)

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“This legislative package will create an effective and consistent inspection/enforcement process and should erase the existing ambiguities in our planning procedures,” said Councilmember Floreen. “In addition to transferring enforcement functions to DPS, the legislation would require a Use and Occupancy (U & O) permit for single family residences, as a safety measure, to insure that all final inspections have been performed and approved. There will be no more questions as to whether there are regular inspections or what office is enforcing the site plan and building permit requirements.

“I firmly believe there must be accountability in development and more protection for our neighborhoods. The increasing complexity of our planning calls out for a strong system of checks and balances to ensure integrity in the process. This legislation will ensure that site plan requirements are clearly understood commitments enforceable by third parties. This will make the process understandable by applicants and communities alike.”

“This is a first step toward comprehensive reform of our overall planning and implementation process,” said Councilmember Knapp. “It’s important that everyone recognize that this is only a first step – much remains to be done if we are to ensure that the vision we have for our communities is what actually gets built.”

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